January and February, 1986. Allocations during the remaining part of 1986 will be made on the basis mentioned above. As in the past, the oil marketing companies will endeavour to supply the allocated quantities to Maharashtra.

Power projects for Maharashtra

2807. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects have been approved by the Central Government for which the Government of Maharashtra had submitted project reports|feasibility reports so far; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in approving these projects and how long would it take to finally approve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Thirteen power projects have been approved for implementation in Maharashtra during the last five years (since 1980). In addition, the scheme for installation of Waste Heat Recovery Unit has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Five hydro and three thermal schemes received from Maharashtra are under appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority. The time taken for final clearance|approval would depend upon the response from the State authorities in furnishing replies to the comments of Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission, preparation of revised project reports, availability of essential inputs and the availability of requisite funds.

Areas prone to subsidence after closure of coal mines

2808. SHRI K. VASUDEV PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the areas in Bihar and other parts of the country which are prone to subsidence and have been abandoned after the closure of coal mines; if so, the total acreage of such areas; and

(b) what steps the Central Government are taking to make such areas safe for habitation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Committee on safety in Coal Mines appointed by Government of India, in its report in August, 1979, observed that a danger from subsidence is apprehended in 166 collieries under Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited. The following steps have been taken to make subsidence prone areas safe for habitation:

(1) Flling up of the pot holes on the surface as and when they occur.

(2) Stabilisation of the underground workings to the extent possible.

(3) Strict enforcement of Mines Act, Rules, Regulations and bye-laws made thereunder.

(4) Strict compliance with the conditions stipulated by Director General of Mines Safety in depillaring operation.

(5) Depillaring in conjunction with stowing, partial extraction etc.

Pricing of gas

2809. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANIKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the issue of pricing of gas for various uses; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken?